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CDC panel debates: Should all school kids get COVID vaccine?

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
and MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writers

Should all school-age kids get Pfizer's pediatric COVID-19 vaccine? That's the question before an influential government advisory panel Tuesday.

The Food and Drug Administration has authorized emergency use of kid-size doses for children ages 5 to 11. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also must sign off before widespread vaccinations begin in that age group.

CDC's advisers are weighing who will get the most benefit as they deliberate whether to recommend the shots for up to 28 million more children, or perhaps only for those most vulnerable to serious illness. Their recommendation goes to the CDC's director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, for the final say.

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CDC panel debates: Should all school kids get COVID vaccine?

Continued from Front

"Today is a monumental day in the course of this pandemic," Walensky told the advisory panel Tuesday.

She said while the risk of severe disease and death is lower in young children than adults, it is real — and that COVID-19 has had a profound social, mental health and educational impact on youngsters, including widening disparities in learning.

"There are children in the second grade who have never experienced a normal school year," Walensky said. "Pediatric vaccination has the power to help us change all of that."

Shots into little arms could begin this week, as Pfizer already is packing and shipping the first orders, millions of doses, to states and pharmacies to be ready.

Doctors who've cared for hospitalized youngsters hope parents embrace Pfizer's kid shots, saying they're safe and far better than gambling that a child will escape a coronavirus infection. "I've seen plenty of children in this age group that have been seriously ill," said Dr. Matthew Linam, an infectious disease specialist at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. "The risk of significant infection is still very real in this population."

There have been more than 8,300 hospitalizations

of kids ages 5 to 11, about a third requiring intensive care, according to government data. The CDC has recorded at least 94 deaths in that age group.

And while the U.S. has seen a recent downturn in COVID-19 cases, experts are worried about another uptick with holiday travel and as winter sends more activity indoors where it's easier for the coronavirus to spread.

Pfizer's kid shots contain a third of the vaccine dose that's already been used to vaccinate millions of people 12 and older. The 5- to 11-year-olds will receive two shots, three weeks apart, the same schedule as everyone else -- but a

smaller amount in each shot, using a smaller needle. A study of 2,268 youngsters found the kid-size vaccine is nearly 91% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 -- based on 16 diagnoses among kids given dummy shots compared to just three who got the real vaccination.

The FDA examined more children, a total of 3,100 who were vaccinated, in concluding the shots are safe. The younger children experienced similar or fewer reactions -- such as sore arms, fever or achiness -- than teens or young adults get after larger doses.

That study wasn't large enough to detect any extremely rare side effects,

such as the heart inflammation that occasionally occurs after the second full-strength dose, mostly in young men and teen boys. The FDA ultimately decided the benefits from vaccination outweigh the potential that younger kids getting a smaller dose also might experience that rare risk.

The FDA's decision came after its own advisers struggled with whether every young child needed a vaccine -- a key question in Tuesday's deliberations, too. Youngsters hospitalized with COVID-19 are more likely to have high-risk conditions such as obesity or diabetes -- but otherwise healthy children can get seriously ill, too. □



Associated Press

(AP) — Elections Tuesday were testing new voting

False claims, new rules: Election Day arrives in the US

restrictions in some Republican-controlled states as officials got a chance to counter a year's worth of misinformation about voting security.

Officials said demonstrating secure, consistent and fair practices could help reassure those who still have doubts about last year's presidential elec-

tion as they begin preparations for next year's midterms.

"It is a great dress rehearsal for 2022," Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon said.

Much of the attention will be on Virginia and New Jersey, where voters are casting ballots for governor and other statewide

races. In the rest of the country, voters were making selections on a variety of local races, ranging from mayor and city council to school board and bond measures. Voters in Maine, New York, Texas and a few other states were considering ballot initiatives on a wide array of topics. □

Minneapolis voters weigh fate of police after George Floyd

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and MOHAMED IBRAHIM
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Voters in Minneapolis were deciding Tuesday whether to replace the city's police department with a new Department of Public Safety, more than a year after George Floyd's death under the knee of a white police officer launched a movement to defund or abolish police across the country.

Democratic Mayor Jacob Frey was also in a tough fight for a second term, facing a bevy of opponents who have attacked him for his leadership in the wake of Floyd's death. Frey opposed the policing amendment. Two of his leading challengers in the field of 17 candidates, Sheila Nezhad and Kate Knuth, strongly supported the proposal.

Minneapolis voters were also deciding whether to replace the city's unusual "weak mayor, strong council" system with a more conventional distribution of executive and legislative powers that would give the mayor clearer authority over day-to-day government operations.

While results from the ballot questions were expected Tuesday night, the mayoral race was a question mark because the city uses ranked choice voting. If no candidate reaches 50% in the first round of counting, the winner would be deter-

mined after a tally Wednesday of second- and potentially third-choice votes. The future of policing in the city where Floyd's death in May 2020 launched a nationwide reckoning on racial justice overshadowed everything on the municipal ballot. The debate brought national attention to the election, as well as a river of out-of-state money seeking to influence a contest that could shape changes in policing elsewhere, too.

Rishi Khanna, 31, a tech worker, voted yes on replacing the police department, saying he doesn't believe police officers are qualified to deal with many situations, such as mental health crises. He said he thinks having professionals equipped to deal with a range of public safety issues in the same department as law enforcement will benefit both residents and police officers.

"I understand that law enforcement will have to have a seat at the table, but I think both in our community and in communities around the country, too often law enforcement is the only seat at the table," he said. "I don't think that's the right solution."

The proposed amendment to the city charter would remove language that mandates that Minneapolis have a police department with a minimum number of officers based on population. It would be replaced

by a new Department of Public Safety that would take a "comprehensive public health approach to the delivery of functions" that "could include" police officers "if necessary, to fulfill its responsibilities for public safety."

Supporters of the change argued that a complete overhaul of policing is necessary to stop police violence. They framed it as a chance to re-imagine what public safety can be and to devote more funding toward new approaches that don't rely on sending armed officers to deal with people in crisis.

But opponents said the ballot proposal contained no concrete plan for how the new department would operate and expressed

fear that it might make communities already affected by gun violence even more vulnerable to rising crime. The details, and who would lead the new agency, would be determined by the mayor and the City Council.

Two nationally prominent progressive Democratic leaders — U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, who represents the Minneapolis area, and state Attorney General Keith Ellison — both supported the policing amendment. But some leading mainstream liberals, including Gov. Tim Walz and U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, opposed it and feared the backlash could lead to Democratic losses across the country in 2022.

Support didn't cleanly fol-

low racial lines. Opponents included several prominent Black leaders, including some who have been top voices in the police accountability movement.

Minister JaNaé Bates, a spokeswoman for the pro-amendment campaign, told reporters Monday that even if the proposal fails, the activists behind it have changed the conversation around public safety.

"No matter what happens, the city of Minneapolis is going to have to move forward and really wrestle with what we cannot know: that the Minneapolis Police Department has been able to operate with impunity and has done quite a bit of harm and the city has to take some serious steps to rectify that," Bates said. □



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Giving to top charities rose 3.7% in 2020, driven by wealthy

By EMILY HAYNES and MICHAEL THEIS of The Chronicle of Philanthropy Chronicle of Philanthropy

In the wake of the most devastating public-health emergency in a century and the resulting economic uncertainty, Americans provided more charitable dollars to United Way Worldwide than any other nonprofit focused on direct aid, followed by the Salvation Army and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, according to new rankings by the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

The most striking increase in charitable giving last year came at Feeding America, a national network of more than 200 food banks, which grew the fastest of the 100 nonprofits in the Chronicle rankings. Feeding America raised over \$515 million last year, more than three-and-a-half times what it brought in 2019.

Even with that increase, though, Feeding America officials — like the leaders of other nonprofits — are worried about what will happen as the urgency of the health and economic crises fade but demand for charitable services continues.

"We are in a fortunate position to have such an influx of donors, but the need is enormous," says Casey Marsh, chief development officer at Feeding America. "The cameras have started to go away from the food bank lines, but the lines haven't gone away. It's so incredibly important that people stick with us."

At the Salvation Army, officials are worried that Americans will hold back after nearly two years of feeling the urgency of the pandemic. "What we fear, like other nonprofits, of course, is donor fatigue," says Dale Bannon, national community-relations and development secretary at the Salvation Army, which raised \$1.8 billion last year, an increase of 31%.

The findings come from the Chronicle of Philanthropy's America's Favorite Charities ranking of organizations that earn the most direct



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financial support from individuals, foundations, and corporations. The Chronicle gathers information from federal informational tax returns that nonprofits file and other reporting to determine which organizations fared the best. Roughly \$1 out of every \$11 donated in 2020 went to the 100 nonprofits on this list, a sign of the gigantic percentage big nonprofits get compared to the more than 1 million other charitable organizations in the United States.

While the big charities get a large share of Americans' dollars, they did not do as well last year as nonprofits over all. Adjusted for inflation, the 100 top charities raised 2.7% more than in 2019. Overall, charitable giving last year grew 3.8% in 2020, according to estimates from the annual "Giving USA" report.

The share of Americans who give has been declining for decades and now hovers at 50% even as total giving continues to increase. But the pandemic deepened charities' reliance on donors who can make the biggest gifts, and that is likely to continue in the years ahead, says Eric Javier, managing director at the consulting firm CCS Fundraising.

"If the market stays high and full employment lags, I would predict that this trend will continue: Charities will

depend on the wealthiest donors," he wrote in an email. "These donors have both the financial capacity and psychological comfort to consider major gifts." But working nonprofits like the Salvation Army and Feeding America are not the only entities that can accept tax-deductible contributions. In recent years, many high-net-worth donors have chosen to give to donor-advised funds, the charitable-giving accounts housed at commercial banks, community foundations, and other charities.

While donors receive an immediate tax break for their contributions to these funds, there is no required timeline for directing those funds to working nonprofits. That's why the Chronicle does not count them in its rankings, which focus on money flowing out of donors' hands into charities doing work today.

Still, the size of those donor-advised funds compared with other nonprofits is eye-catching. Fidelity Charitable alone took in upwards of \$10.7 billion last year, almost triple the nearly \$3.6 billion United Way Worldwide (No. 1 in our survey; raised 3.3% more than in 2019) raised and nearly six times what the Salvation Army collected.

To compete for funding in an environment in which the wealthy dominate

charitable giving, United Way Worldwide has made big changes. It was once defined by its workplace-giving campaigns, which raise recurring, modest contributions from everyday people. But those efforts have been declining for years, falling 15% in 2020, in large part because of remote work or layoffs due to the pandemic.

Gifts of \$10,000 or more helped the organization increase its cash support by more than 3% from 2019 to 2020. Those big contributions meant that for the first time since 2014, United Way Worldwide's donations grew year over year. Among those big gifts were contributions from Mackenzie Scott, the novelist and former wife of Jeff Bezos, who supported 46 United Way affiliates across the United States.

While leaning on affluent Americans produced fundraising success at the legacy social services group, Tollie Love, chief investor relations officer at United Way Worldwide worries that the nature of United Way will change as it relies less and less on the working class.

"United Way likes to think of ourselves as democratizing philanthropy," Love says. "To have fewer people deciding where the philanthropic resources go, it's a danger or a risk that could possibly leave everyday

community supporters disengaged."

One reason major donors felt emboldened to give big last year was the booming stock market. Some charities — especially colleges and universities — have decided to launch major fundraising drives to attract big gifts from high-net-worth donors.

"There's a momentum there, there's a heightened interest in philanthropy," says Karin George, managing principal at Washburn & McGoldrick, a fundraising firm that primarily works with independent schools and colleges and universities.

Nonprofits say they also benefited as donors were willing to provide them money for their operating expenses, like paying utility bills and technology costs, rather than earmarking aid for specific programs as they often do.

In 2020, individual donors to the YMCA of the USA (No. 63; raised \$338 million in 2020, down 3.3% from 2019) went above and beyond their usual gifts to fund the services the charity offers, making no-strings gifts directly to the charity's national office.

These contributions helped the headquarters set up programs including child-care programs for essential workers who lived in communities under stress from natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and other challenges.

Rebecca Bowen, its chief advancement officer, credits some big unprompted gifts to national media coverage of YMCAs across the country meeting community needs. A large one came in after NPR ran a story on the YMCA that featured a photo of kids in a child-care program pretending to be airplanes to stay socially distanced.

"The adviser who called said, 'My donor saw that picture,'" Bowen says.

Even charities that had banner fundraising years in 2020 are uncertain how the pandemic has changed Americans' thinking about the best ways to do good. □

'Heartbreaking' Madagascar is wake-up call to climate crisis

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The drought-stricken island nation of Madagascar is a 'wake up call' to what the world can expect in coming years due to climate change, the head of the United Nations' food aid agency said Tuesday.

David Beasley, executive director of the World Food Program, told The Associated Press in an interview that what's happening in the south of the Indian Ocean country is "the beginning of what we can expect" to see as the effects of global warming become more pronounced.

"Madagascar was heartbreaking," Beasley said, referring to his recent visit there. "It's just desperate," with people reduced to selling their household pots and pans to try to buy food, he said. Some 38 million people worldwide were displaced last year because of climate change, leaving them vulnerable to hunger, according to Beasley. A worst-case scenario could see that number soar to 216 million people displaced due to climate change by 2050.

That's the year many industrialized nations — but not China, Russia or India — have set as their target for achieving carbon neutrality, meaning reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the point where they can be absorbed and effectively add zero to the atmosphere.

When Beasley, a former South Carolina governor, took the World Food Program helm in 2017, the top reason for people being on the brink of starvation was



Associated Press

man-made conflict, followed by climate change, he said.

But since then, climate change has eclipsed conflicts as the bigger driver in displacing people and leaving them not knowing where their next meal will come from. Last year, about 38 million, he said, were displaced "strictly because of climate shocks, climate change," Beasley said.

"I would like to think this is the worst-case scenario — 216 million people by 2050 that will be migrating or displaced because of climate change," he said.

According to updated WFP figures released Tuesday, close to 30,000 people on Madagascar will be one step away from famine by the end of the year, and some 1.1 million already suffer from severe hunger. The island is struggling with exceptionally warm temperatures, drought and sandstorms.

Crops have wilted, and harvests are scarce. People have taken to eating cactus leaves, which usually are cattle fodder, the U.N. food agency said.

"To me, Madagascar is a wake-up call to the rest of the world of what is to be expected in the future from other nations," Beasley said.

"Madagascar is not an isolated incident," he said. "The world needs to look to Madagascar to see what is coming your way and (to) many other countries around the world."

The World Food Program has been supplying some 700,000 people on the island with food and supplemental nutritional products for pregnant and nursing women and children.

In Ethiopia, by contrast, famine is man-made, caused by conflict.

The World Food Program estimates that 5.2 million people are in need of emergency food assistance in

Tigray, Ethiopia's embattled northern region. United Nations officials have warned in recent weeks that more than 400,000 people could face starvation and death if humanitarian aid isn't delivered quickly, but hardly any aid can get to those who desperately need to eat.

The Tigray forces say they are pressuring Ethiopia's government to lift a months-long blockade on their region of around 6 million people, where basic services have been cut off and humanitarian food and medical aid denied.

Beasley says the WFP has been "messing to all sides, including the Ethiopian government, the leadership, that this is a crisis" needing immediate access for food aid. But "we're not making headway," he said. "We're not able to get (food aid) trucks in or get fuel in. We're not even able to get the cash to the people we need to pay," Beasley told the AP.

As a result, Tigray's people "have to be dying at unprecedented numbers, but we can't get the access we need," he said. "It's a disgrace."

He said the WFP should be moving in 30 trucks of day loaded with food, and another 70 full of medicine and other humanitarian assistance. "We're not even getting 10% of that in trucks a day," the agency director said.

For many of Tigray's people, Beasley said, it has come down to "either die or migrate."

Paradoxically, in Afghanistan, that country's new Taliban rulers have been allowing WFP access to food distribution centers and even schools — where many teachers are going unpaid — and protecting WFP warehouses, international donors haven't been supplying sufficient funding, Beasley said.

In Afghanistan, 22.8 million people — half that nation's population — are facing acute food security, or "marching toward starvation," as Beasley put it.

Conflict and drought had combined to create that impoverished nation's food crisis. The dire situation will grow even more critical starting in January, when the WFP's food stocks for Afghanistan will be running low if more donors don't come through.

"That price tag is \$230 million a month feeding them" at only partial rations, said Beasley, adding: that "there are 8.7 million people in Afghanistan knocking at famine's door."

The U.N. agency was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year. □

Ethiopia orders emergency as Tigray forces threaten capital

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Ethiopia's government has declared a national state of emergency as rival Tigray forces threaten to move on the capital as the country's yearlong war escalates quickly.

The declaration by the Council of Ministers on Tuesday was the clearest

sign of alarm yet from the government of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who a year ago this week allowed soldiers from a neighboring country to invade the Tigray region and pursue the Tigray forces alongside Ethiopian troops. Thousands of people have been killed since then.

The United States has warned the Tigray forces, who long dominated the national government before Abiy took office, against any attempt to "besiege" the capital, Addis Ababa, after seizing control in recent days of the strategic cities of Dessie and Kombolcha. That posi-

tions them to move down a major highway toward the capital.

The state of emergency takes effect immediately and will last for six months. The government can impose a curfew, disrupt transport services and travel and detain indefinitely anyone suspected of

having links with a terrorist group. Local administrations in some areas could be disbanded and a military leadership could be installed.

Such actions would be implemented by law. Ethiopian lawmakers are expected to convene within 48 hours. □

Palestinians reject offer to delay their Jerusalem eviction

By JOSEPH KRAUSS and

JACK JEFFERY

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian families on Tuesday rejected an offer that would have delayed their eviction by Jewish settlers in a tense Jerusalem neighborhood, where protests and clashes helped ignite the 11-day Gaza war in May.

The four families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood near the Old City said their decision springs from "our belief in the justice of our cause and our right to our homes and our homeland." They said that rather than submit to an "unjust agreement" they would rely on the "Palestinian street" to raise international awareness of their plight.

The proposal floated by Israel's Supreme Court last month would have made them "protected tenants," blocking any eviction and demolition order for at least the next 15 years, according to Ir Amim, an Israeli rights group that closely follows developments in the city. The families would have been able to continue arguing their case in Israeli courts. But it would have forced them to at least temporarily attest to the settlers' ownership of the properties, which could weaken the families' case going forward, and pay



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rent to the settlers.

The four families are among dozens in Jerusalem who are threatened with eviction by Jewish settler organizations in several cases that have been working their way through the Israeli court system for decades. The settlers are making use of an Israeli law that allows them to claim properties that were owned by Jews prior to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. Palestinians who lost homes, properties and lands in the same conflict do not have the right to recover them. There was no immediate comment from the settlers,

but Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Arieh King, a staunch supporter, said they had accepted the offer.

The families, who are originally from what is now Israel, say the Jordanian government granted them the land on which their homes were later built in exchange for their refugee status after it assumed control of the West Bank and east Jerusalem in 1948. They have been living there ever since.

Israel has portrayed the matter as a private real-estate dispute, but the Palestinians and human rights groups view it as a coor-

dinated attempt to push Palestinian residents out of Jerusalem and change the city's identity. The U.S. has spoken out against the evictions, saying it undermines efforts to eventually revive the long-dormant peace process.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 war. The Palestinians want all three territories to form their future state and consider east Jerusalem their capital. Jordan supports their claims. Israel annexed east Jerusalem shortly after the 1967 war and considers the en-

tire city to be its capital, a claim not recognized by most of the international community.

The threatened evictions were one of the main drivers of protests that erupted in Jerusalem in April and May. The city, with major holy sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims, is the emotional heart of the century-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has been the epicenter of several waves of unrest over the years.

After weeks of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police, including at a flashpoint holy site, Gaza's militant Hamas rulers fired rockets at the city.

That set off the fourth Gaza war since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. Hamas has repeatedly warned Israel against evicting the families. The families' decision to reject the offer sends the matter back to the Supreme Court, which could approve the evictions and pave the way for them to be carried out in the coming weeks. That would risk setting off another cycle of violence.

Ir Amim says the Israeli government has various tools at its disposal to delay or halt the evictions, but so far it has shown no indication it plans to do so. □



Associated Press

By CHINEDU ASADU

Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) —

Authorities in Nigeria have arrested the owner of a high-rise apartment building in the country's largest city that suddenly collapsed, killing at least 14

people and leaving dozens still missing Tuesday beneath the rubble.

Nine people have been pulled out alive, an official said, but relatives were angry at what they called the slow pace of the rescue effort that began

Collapsed Nigerian building had permit for 15 floors, not 21

hours after the collapse on Monday. Meanwhile, officials said the property's developers had added six more floors than what was originally approved under their building permit in the city of Lagos, fueling speculation that the additional weight could have contributed to the collapse. The government-run News Agency of Nigeria reported that the building's owner had been arrested on undisclosed charges. "I am on the ground here and the materials he used are so inferior and terrible," Gbolahan Oki, general manager of the

Lagos State Building Control Agency, told the News Agency of Nigeria. "He got approval for 15 floors but built 21."

Hours later, the Lagos state governor announced Tuesday that Oki had been suspended from his position indefinitely.

Co-workers say they believe dozens of people remain trapped in the debris, and only nine people have been pulled out alive over the last 24 hours, Lagos commissioner for information Gbenga Omotayo said.

"More equipment and personnel have been de-

ployed in the site to save more lives," he said.

On Tuesday, distressed relatives whose loved ones were missing sat together by the road consoling one another. Afolabi Sunny said his 25-year-old sister, Oyindamola, had only recently started to work at the construction site as a participant of the National Youth Service Corps just months after she graduated from school.

"They are trying. Everybody is just trying," he said of the rescue operation. "But as far as my sister is not one of those brought out, they are not trying." □

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Banana farmers lose livelihoods as lava devours La Palma

By EMILIO MORENATTI and JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

LAS MANCHAS DE ABAJO, Canary Islands (AP) — His home went first. Then the house his father built. Then the lottery stand and hardware store he owned succumbed.

Lastly, Antonio Álvarez had to watch as lava from a volcanic eruption slowly devoured the remaining pillar of his family's wealth: the dozen acres he dedicated to growing the Canary Island banana that for generations has provided the agricultural lifeblood of the Atlantic Ocean archipelago.

"My father always told me 'don't make the house too big, it won't make you money; invest in banana! The bananas will give you a house.' And it's true," Álvarez said. "When I filmed (the lava destroying) my father's house, it was seeing him die all over again. That house was a part of him."

Álvarez, 54, is one of thousands of farmers and workers on Spain's La Palma island whose livelihoods have been put in jeopardy by the destruction wreaked by volcano that is still going strong six weeks after the ground first broke open on Sept. 19.

The regional government of the Canary Islands, an archipelago including La Palma located off the coast of northwest Africa, estimates that the volcano has already caused 100 million euros (\$116 million) in losses for the island's banana industry. Over 390 acres (158 hectares) of land used for banana farming have been covered by molten rock, and more than 700 additional acres (300 hectares) have been cut off after roads on the island's western side were



Associated Press

enveloped by lava.

The banana growers association for the Canary Islands, ASPROCAN, estimates that around 1,500 of the island's 5,000 owners of banana plantations have been hurt. Most owners have small patches of a few acres.

Many, like Álvarez, have seen their land burnt and crushed. Others have lost harvests because they can't get to their trees. And many more have seen their product become unmarketable due to the volcanic ash that has ruined the banana peels.

It's been a shock wave for an industry that provides 30% of the economic life of the island, according to regional government statistics. There are entire businesses dedicated to packing and transporting the fruit, which, along with tourism, keeps La Palma going. "They say it has wiped out 10% of the island's economy. I think it is more. It wasn't just the bananas, or the apartments, or the bed and breakfasts, it has taken

everything," Álvarez said. "What has happened to us has happened to 90% of the people here."

La Palma, an island of 85,000, is the second-largest producer of banana for the eight-member archipelago, which at its nearest point is 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Morocco. Last year it produced 148,000 tons of the local banana, most of which were shipped to Spain's mainland.

While usually more expensive than imported bananas from Latin America and Africa, the smaller Canary Island banana is often preferred for its sweeter taste and meatier texture.

Authorities have pledged financial aid to help the sector and fund furloughs for workers. They have also promised to revise a law that says that new land formed by the lava is property of the state.

Desalination plants have been shipped in to supply the water-dependent banana trees at points where lava flows have wrecked the irrigation systems. The

asked for the military to consider taking farmers in by boat to tend to farms that have been isolated by the rivers of lava.

The lava, however, keeps spewing from the Cumbre Vieja ridge, threatening to widen and consume more land as it churns its way downward to the Atlantic, where a new patch of lava land is forming.

The house of farmer Jesús Pérez is still at risk, but for him the most important property he owns is already gone.

"I would have preferred to lose my house instead of my banana trees," the 56-year-old Pérez said. "The trees give you life, the house gives you nothing. I have sacrificed all my life, and for what, nothing?" □



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The Kitchen Table enters seventh year of gastronomy with raving reviews: “The devil is in the details; we are in praise.”

EAGLE BEACH — While in Aruba do yourself a favor and experience a night at The Kitchen Table. This is an elegant, classy, intimate, high-quality restaurant with an exceptional dining set-up. Dining here is an experience, a kind of sitting- at your-best- friend's or family's kitchen table where you feel and taste that the food contains love. The extra mile the owners and staff go has everything to do with running this lovely restaurant in a sincere, authentic way. In Spanish they say: 'Mi casa es tu casa' meaning my house is your house and that describes exactly what you will feel during a night at The Kitchen Table.

The 8-course ecstatic food trip starts with a warm welcome and sparkling wine at the patio of The Kitchen Table's new location at Paradise Beach Villas as of 6.00PM. The chef's table concept is happening on the second floor of the owners 'restaurant Asi Es Mi Peru, another highly recommended establishment. But we are here now to guide you through the concept of The Kitchen Table, so let's go. Taking you upstairs is literally taking you into an ambiance of warmth, coziness, classic elegance, and intimacy. You are treated like queen and king



while sitting in noble chairs at a huge table. Owners Roxanna Salinas and Jan van Nes are warm and welcoming hosts and Chef David Lizano and Sous-Chef Xalsky Schwengle enthusiastically share their deep knowledge of the beautiful dishes that will be presented to you. Get ready to dive into the tastebuds tickling journey to the Caribbean, Peruvian and international cuisine. To pair the perfect wines three sommeliers were invited to make the selection.

Table full foodies

The restaurant just got its new menu out, so this is the time to reserve your spot at the table. A Caribbean Peruvian Snack Trio is the enchanting first appetizer existing of a Chicken Empanada, Crab & Shrimp Eggroll and a Cucumber & Tuna Nikkei. This is paired with a delicate Ruffino

Ovieto (Italy), just perfect. Taking us to the next round we are presented a Mahi Mahi Tartare, delicious and combined with the Spanish Santiago Ruiz Albarino, we are in heaven. What follows is a personal favorite, the Beef Tataki with Quinoa accompanied by La Fage, Miraflores Rose wine from France. This is an amazing dish. In between the courses the owner and chef explain about the ingredients, preparation, and origins of the dishes in turns, it is truly an interesting and exciting presentation. The Peruvian Red Snapper Casserole is a surprising, wonderful tasting and in complete balance with the USA Cline Viognier from Sonoma Coast. My American-Ecuadorian neighbor was thrilled with this dish and who would be a better judge than she, after all she is from the region. The guests are clearly having a good time and we are in awe so far. The Kitchen Table builds this evening in an upward trend, and we proceed with Scallops and Shrimps within a Risotto of green Peas Puree with a foam of Coconut Milk Sauce. A mouth-melting experience and added to the culinary joy is a USA wine from Yolo County, Phantom Chardonnay. From the Caribbean, Peru we travel to Argentina presented to us with a Veal in her Jus and paired with a beautiful Lunta Malbec. There is no great dinner without a sweet goodbye and The Kitchen Table makes sure that you will not forget them by signing off with a fantastic

dessert: Mango popsicle and a Three-layered Cheesecake together with a Portuguese Osborne Port. We asked a couple from New York how they liked the experience: "The devil is in the details; every tiny part here is balanced, and savors are matched in an unmatched way. We are in praise."

The secret formula

The Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas and her husband Jan van Nes are the secret formula behind The Kitchen Table's success. You can tell making the customers happy is their main priority. The couple takes a personal approach to what they do, this is not about running a business as usual. This is more about making you feel welcomed home, as well as being pampered. They bring top hospitality, experience and authenticity to the table. Within this gourmet dinner concept the two blended the Peruvian culinary art of Roxanna's top kitchen team and Jan's expertise from The Kitchen Table. The result is one big trip of delight, indulge and tickling of your taste buds. The Kitchen Table welcomes you with open arms every Tuesday to Saturday. An evening at The Kitchen Table will be noted as unforgettable in your book of vacation memories, as it stands out from the regular island dinners.

The Kitchen Table is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Have a peak on their website www.thekitchentableinaruba.com or call them at +297-280 7117. □



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Domestic Credit Declined Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of August 2021

Monetary developments

Compared to July 2021, money supply declined in August 2021 by Afl. 22.0 million to Afl. 5,136.9 million, resulting from decrease in the net domestic assets (-Afl. 40.6 million) and an increase in the net foreign assets (+Afl. 18.5 million).

The decline in the domestic component of money supply was caused by reductions in both the domestic credit (-Afl. 29.5 million) and the non-credit related balance sheet items (-Afl. 11.1 million). The contraction in domestic credit resulted from a decrease in the claims of the banking sector on the private sector (-Afl. 36.6 million) and an expansion in the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector (+Afl. 7.1 million). The drop in

the claims of the banking sector on the private sector was caused by decreases in loans to enterprises (-Afl. 29.8 million) and consumer credit (-Afl. 7.2 million), while housing mortgages increased (+Afl. 0.4 million). The growth in the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector was the result of a dip in government deposits (-Afl. 6.7 million).

In August 2021, net foreign assets of the banking sector rose, due to net purchases of foreign exchange of Afl. 262.0 million from the public, mostly related to foreign exchange revenue from tourism exports. These were largely offset by net sales of foreign exchange of Afl. 243.5 million to the public, mainly associated with payments

for goods imports and other services

Inflation

The consumer price index (CPI) for August 2021 noted a 1.4 percent rise year-over-year (YOY) compared to a 1.8 percent increase (YOY) for July 2021. The main contributor to this increase was the "Transport" component. The 12-month average inflation rate was -1.1 percent in August 2021, compared to -1.4 percent in July 2021

Government

Total government revenue amounted to Afl. 79.7 million in August 2021, Afl. 14.2 million more than the same month of the previous year. The growth in government revenue resulted from an

increase in tax revenue (+Afl. 20.6 million) and a decrease in nontax revenue (-Afl. 6.4 million).

The expansion in tax revenue was mainly driven by increases in income from turnover tax (B.B.O./B.A.V.P) (+Afl. 6.0 million), import duties (+Afl. 4.9 million), excises on tobacco (+Afl. 2.7 million), and wage tax (+2.4 million).

Tourism

The number of stay-over visitors amounted to 80,230 in August 2021, which is 15,870 less visitors (-16.5 percent) than in August 2019. The Latin American market, the North American market, and the European market declined by 6,018 visitors (-63.8 percent), 5,155 visitors (-7.0 percent), and 4,434 visitors (-41.9 percent), respectively. □

Annual Influenza Vaccine campaign

ORANJESTAD - The annual influenza vaccination campaign has started.

The Department of Public Health DVG urges those at higher risk of complications for the influenza virus to get their flu shot as soon as possible.

Those categorized as higher-risk include individuals who have a higher risk of getting bronchitis or pneumonia due to the flu. These include people suffering from chronic illness, respiratory illness, obesity, pregnancy, or autoimmune disease caused by cancer or HIV.

To receive the flu shot persons 60 years and older only have to present a valid AZV card. Those in the higher risk category and under the age of 60 should bring a doctor's prescription and show a valid AZV card.

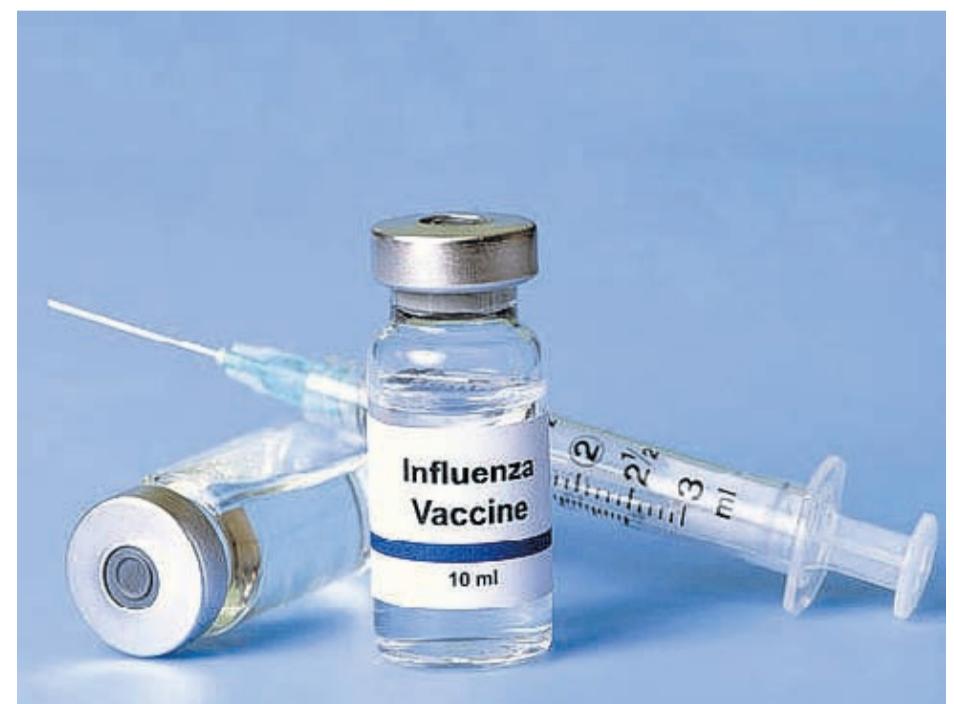
The flu vaccine is administered at

one of the following locations and dates:

- November 3 and 4 at Centro Curazon Santa Cruz between 9 am and 12 pm;
- November 5 and 8 at Centro di Bario Brazil between 9 am and 12 pm;
- November 9 and 10 at Centro di Bario Noord between 9 am and 12 pm.

Individuals who do not qualify as higher risk, but want the flu vaccine can purchase this exclusively at the office of the section of Infectious Diseases. You cannot buy the Flu vaccine at these vaccination locations. To get the flu vaccine, please call 5224239 or 522441 to schedule an appointment. The Flu vaccine costs Afl. 20.00, and you can only buy it with a debit card. Cash is not accepted.

For more information, please contact the Section of Infectious Dis-



eases of the DVG at 5224239 or 522441, during regular office hours from Monday to Friday between 7:45 am - 11:45 am and 1:15 pm - 4:15 pm. □

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Interpol updates its RADEX immigration system at the airport

ORANJESTAD – On November 1, 2021, the National Central Bureau of Counterterrorism, Security and INTERPOL (NCTVI) and the Minister of Justice and Social Affairs, have launched the updated Immigration's border protection system RADEX.

As indicated in the Landspakket, border protection is one of the goals in the management plan. Detection and execution based on the information are essential to fight crime more effectively and efficiently. Minister Tjon explained that crime starts at the borders, and that is why it is crucial to improve border security. It is an essential part of the policy of the Minister.

Starting November 1, 2021, all passengers entering or leaving Aruba will go through INTERPOL screening and the suspicious ones thoroughly investigated. The INTERPOL management will execute this project. The INTERPOL's database will serve to

detect and do this screening to prevent crime. It will also assist the border protection authorities in Aruba in the execution of their daily tasks.

In connection with this project, the following entities will be working together:

- Police Department Airport Division;
- Interpol Aruba;
- Migration Aruba;
- Koninklijke Marechaussee;
- The Aruba Security Service;
- Public Prosecution, Coast Guard and Guarda nos Costa Aruba.

Gamma IT Solution made this project possible. This company manages the RADEX system "Border Control Management System" linked to the Aruba Migration system. Now the authorities have access to data that is useful in the identification process of suspects. Unwanted individuals can now be intercepted at the border and criminal activities prevented in time.□



HBN Law & Tax relocates - in Aruba to legal hub

ORANJESTAD - On November 1, 2021, HBN Law & Tax relocated its legal and tax services to a brand new office at Caya Dr. J.E.M. Arends. Ever since 2000 - when HBN set foot in Aruba - the local branch has been subject to steady growth which accelerated when the firm moved to provide tax services as well in 2019. From the current two separate locations, the legal and tax team will continue their activities in one modern office that offers added value for both clients and employees.

"Our relocation is a strategic choice", says Eric de Vries, Managing Partner at HBN Law & Tax. "We aim to offer the best legal services throughout the Dutch Caribbean and thus also Aruba. Many of our clients request a full-service approach as legal and tax matters go hand in hand on many occasions. Maintaining our quality standards in times of growth and change pushes us to maximize the alignment of expertise and processes. Subsequently, we want our multidisciplinary team to work close to one another and fully integrate services. As we share the building with Johnson Notary Services, we see an extra benefit for organizations that prefer to centralize all legal services, including notary services. With all disciplines accounted for, the new location can be seen as a prominent legal hub in Aruba."



Misha Bemer, partner at HBN Law & Tax, is locally responsible for all Aruban activities. He adds: "From a human resources point of view, I think our relocation is an important step that cannot be underestimated. As any legal service provider, we are highly dependent on the influx of new talent into our workforce. Hence we are committed to maintaining a great place to work and grow. Our new office really helps. Not only does it provide us with a spacious and sustainable working environment, but it also allows our team to blend and gives us further room for growth. The area, close to the beach, is buzzing and subject to continuous planned improvement. Sure, we'll miss the residential vibe of the Beatrixstraat, but looking ahead, our new location suits our ambitions and that of our clients perfectly.□

Borders with Venezuela still closed

ORANJESTAD – Last week a manifest was handed over to Minister Glenbert Croes and Minister Rocco Tjon. In the manifest, the protesters urged for the re-opening of the borders with Venezuela.

The Aruba-Venezuela border was closed in 2019 for air traffic as well as for marine traffic. Only indirect flights from Venezuela were possible through Colombia or Panama for those who succeeded in getting a Visa. Prime Minister Evelyn Wever Croes emphasized that the current global situation is impeding many things. Covid has affected Aruba enormously and Aruba is currently still in the recovering phase, trying to get the community back to work. The priority now is to get employment for the citizens first. "I have noticed the request of a group to reopen the border between Aruba and Venezuela. It is not an easy thing to do and requires considerable diplomacy from both countries. We have to agree on strict control policies. Back in 2018, when President Maduro closed the borders with Aruba, it took lots

of dialogue between the Aruba and Venezuelan authorities. The accusations of President Maduro that Aruba was stealing its copper, stained the name of Aruba, and this was the beginning of the border closure. The Government of Aruba wants to prevent this situation from repeating itself. On a diplomatic level, it requires concrete policies to regulate and control air and marine traffic. "The Government of Aruba and Curacao are currently at the table with the Venezuelan authorities. Once they reach an agreement, the Government of Aruba will evaluate how and when the border with Venezuela will re-open.

However, it will not be something soon, but it has the attention of the Aruba Government. We have empathy with those who live in Aruba and have family in Venezuela. We continue to pray for Venezuela to resolve its internal problems. Only the Venezuelans can solve their problems. The responsibility of the Aruba Government is to put Aruba and those who live in Aruba first", the Prime Minister stated.□

US says oil, gas sales damage climate — but won't stop them

By MATTHEW BROWN

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) —

The Biden administration is planning to sell oil and gas leases on huge tracts of public land in the U.S. West, despite the Interior Department's conclusion that doing so could cost society billions of dollars in climate change impacts.

Administration officials announced last week that government regulators for the first time will analyze greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels extracted from government-owned lands across the U.S.

Burning those fuels accounts for about 20% of energy-related U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, making them a prime target for climate activists who want to shut them down, and President Joe Biden campaigned on pledges to end new drilling on public land. Yet officials with the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management said there's little they can do to prevent the cumulative climate change impacts from burning the fuels. That's because they can't discern the significance of emissions from government-owned fuel reserves versus other sources, officials wrote in newly released documents.

The determination applies to lease sales planned early next year in Wyoming,



Associated Press

Colorado, Montana, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico and other states.

"BLM has limited decision authority to meaningfully or measurably prevent the cumulative climate change impacts that would result from global emissions," agency officials wrote in their Montana lease proposal. Similar statements were included in documents released by the government for sales in other states.

The agency scaled back some sales over concerns that drilling could harm wildlife. It plans to defer almost 600 square miles (724

square kilometers) of leases in Wyoming and 5 square miles (14 square kilometers) in Montana, citing potential impacts to a struggling bird species, the greater sage grouse, and migrating pronghorn antelope. Still, Wyoming has the most land up for new leasing, roughly 280 square miles. The so-called social costs of emissions from burning oil and gas from the parcels — including higher sea levels, wildfires and public health problems all due to climate change — are projected to range from \$357 million to more than \$4 billion, according to the Interior De-

partment. The administration's decision not to cite the costs of climate change as a reason to limit leases frustrates environmental activists and others who have urged curbs in government fossil fuel sales. They said it undermined the president's participation in the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, where world leaders on Tuesday pledged to cut emissions of methane, a byproduct of drilling. Harvard University economics professor James Stock said it was confusing for the administration to put a dollar value to green-

house emissions, but then assert that such impacts are impossible to discern because of the global nature of climate change.

"To say it's too hard, they can't do that — that's simply not true. All of those calculations have been done," Stock said. "This is very surprising to me and inconsistent with the Biden administration's climate goals."

Similar determinations that U.S. fossil fuel lease sales should not be restricted over global warming concerns were made under former Presidents Donald Trump and Barack Obama.

"This seems to be business as usual," Jeremy Nichols with the environmental group WildEarth Guardians said of the upcoming lease sales. "It flies in the face of scientists finding that any more fossil fuel production is unacceptable and countries need to find ways to limit production."

Republicans and petroleum industry representatives were quick to slam Biden last week when he announced plans to analyze emissions. The decision not to directly address them reinforces that stopping development of federal lands would have little impact on climate change, said Kathleen Sgamma with the Western Energy Alliance, an industry trade group. □

Tesla falls on Musk tweet saying Hertz deal not signed yet

By MATT OTT

AP Business Writer

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) —

Shares of Tesla Inc. tumbled almost 4% in midday trading on Tuesday after its CEO and founder Elon Musk tweeted that a contract to sell 100,000 cars to Hertz had not been signed, suggesting the deal had not been finalized.

Shortly after the market close Monday, an account called "Tesla Silicon Valley Club" tweeted an image of a graph showing Tesla's 8.5% gain that day and thanked Musk. Musk

tweeted a reply about six hours later: "You're welcome! If any of this is based on Hertz, I'd like to emphasize that no contract has been signed yet." Hertz said on Tuesday that its plans haven't changed.

"As we announced last week, Hertz has made an initial order of 100,000 Tesla electric vehicles by the end of 2022 and is investing in new EV charging infrastructure across the company's global operations," the company said in an email. "Deliveries of the Teslas already have started,

and consumer reaction to our commitment to lead in electrification has been beyond our expectations." Hertz first announced the deal just more than a week ago, one of the largest purchases of battery-powered cars in history. Financial details of the deal — such as how much Hertz was paying per car or the total price — were not revealed at the time. If Hertz were to pay the full \$40,000 retail price for each Model 3, it would make the deal worth around \$4 billion to the automaker. News of the deal



Associated Press

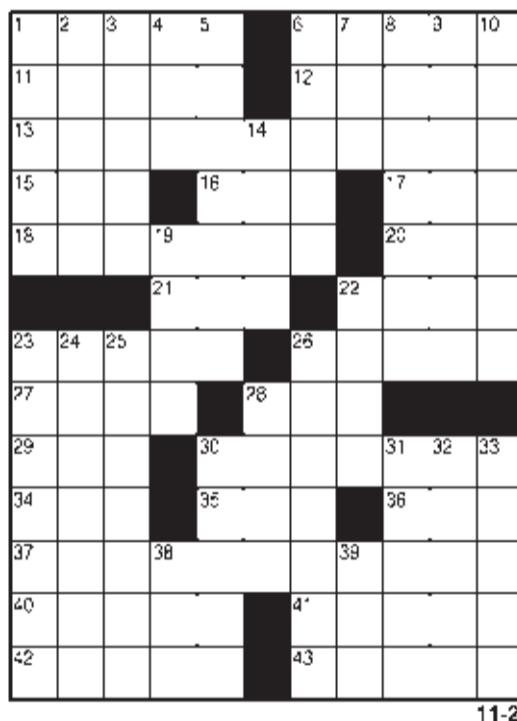
last week triggered a rally in Tesla's stock, driving the world's most valuable automaker's market value over the \$1 trillion mark for the first time. Before Tuesday's dip, shares had risen about 33% in the week since the deal was announced.

Musk suggested in the same tweet reply on Monday night that Hertz would not be getting a discount and that the deal was inconsequential to his company's bottom line. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- Sandbox toys
 - Accumulate
 - Mac-Dowell of "Groundhog Day"
 - Sold for
 - Activating, in a way
 - Light brown
 - Fish eggs
 - "... man — mouse?"
 - Pencil ends
 - Mouse's cousin
 - Greek vowel
 - Heroic tale
 - Fire-fighting needs
 - Rx amounts
 - Important times
 - Spider's home
 - Boxing great
 - Sicilian wine
 - June honoree
 - Smart — whip
 - Tennis hit
 - Turning informer against
 - Funny Murphy
- DOWN**
- Cut's counterpart
 - Egypt's Sadat
 - Menzel of "Frozen"
 - Set fire to
 - Classified stuff
 - Zodiac ram
 - Fellow
 - Some cats and rabbits
 - Attic use
 - Orchestra pieces
 - Circle dance
 - Spots
 - Laments loudly
 - Telemarketer's aid
 - Magic setting
 - Tied the knot
 - Fouls up, as plans
 - Scrub pieces
 - Spiked clubs
 - Pond growth
 - Unfettered Yokum boy
 - Pewter component
 - Hoop attachment



A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-2

CRYPTOQUOTE

B Y O D O T M K S C Q S W M J Q
V I Q T Q W M , K L O W X J B Y O I T Q K N
Y W Q C Q I B Z L C Q , N S W A B Y O I
Q M Q I W S M B S W Q L X J D Y D Q W M .

J Q W I B A L C S A M J Y I Q L O

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF OTHERS, YOU CAN'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM ALL YOURSELF — ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

L	A	T	C	H	S	L	A	M
A	L	O	H	A	P	I	L	E
B	A	Y	E	D	R	E	R	A
E	M	O	A	C	E	O	N	O
L	O	U	D	S	P	E	K	E
E	A	R	H	T	E	S	T	
P	H	O	N	Y	S	O	R	T
I	O	N	S	A	L	L		
S	W	E	E	T	T	A	L	K
E	T	D	E	E	L	E	R	E
O	V	I	N	E	O	H	A	R
L	E	M	O	N	M	I	N	E
R	E	D	S	R	P	U	O	D

Yesterday's answer

Amid US sanctions, Huawei highlights uses for 5G technology



Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's Huawei Technologies Co. is providing smart services and 5G technology to industries such as healthcare, creating new revenue streams that might offset the damage to its smartphone business from U.S. sanctions.

In the southern city of Guangzhou, the company teamed up with the Guangdong Second Provincial General Hospital to equip it with 5G technology and more than 10,000 smart devices that can collect and transmit real-time health data from patients to doctors and nurses to improve patient care.

5G is an ultra-fast wireless technology that has little lag time and can support a massive number of smart devices connected to the internet simultaneously. The current mainstream technology, 4G, is slower at transmitting data and can support fewer devices. Huawei is the world's largest supplier of 5G technology equipment, even though it is shut out from the U.S. and some other major markets. Last year, it briefly also was the world's largest smartphone maker, surpassing South Korean handset maker Samsung.

But sanctions imposed by Washington have restricted Huawei from obtaining the computer chips necessary

for its smartphones. Last month, the company forecasted its smartphone revenue could drop as much as \$40 billion — or about 80% — this year.

Providing 5G technology and services for the healthcare, finance and even education industries is one way to increase its revenue.

"We all know that 5G, compared to the previous generations of communication technologies, has the three characteristics of large bandwidth, low latency, and massive connections," said Guo Zizhong, director of Huawei's Smart Hospital Business Division in China. "In fact, when it comes to the adaptation of the three characteristics, the medical field is a very good match with them among industries in all walks of life."

The hospital in Guangzhou, a city of 15 million, uses various smart technologies, including a 5G ambulance fitted with medical devices and cameras to transmit data and footage in real time, allowing doctors to make better diagnoses while patients are on their way to the hospital so they can be treated as soon as they arrive. Previously, for example, heart monitors

would have to be removed to upload data from patients, and then checked by doctors. "With real-time

(monitoring), we are able to learn about what's going on with a patient's heart rate and can immediately give instructions on what to do," said He Yongcong, a doctor in the hospital's department of cardiovascular medicine.

The 5G technology can also be used in monitors that measure the progress and speed of intravenous infusions in real time and in smart wristbands that can be used as emergency alert devices. So nurses can monitor patients remotely and prepare infusions and medications ahead of time instead of constantly checking patients at their bedsides. Construction costs and expensive devices and accessories are preventing widespread adoption, said Cui Kai, associate research director at research firm International Data Corporation (IDC).

"Some policy guidance and support may be needed to help 5G develop rapidly. In the mid-term, we believe that (the development of) 5G still depends on the cost," Cui said.

For 5G technology to become popular, there must be a range of technology services offered for different industries, Cui said.

"Only (then) . . . can we drive the development of digital transformation of the entire society." □

Classifieds

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Fundacion Contra Violencia
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Centre for Diabetes
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Huma Abedin, loyal aide and betrayed wife, picks up the mic



Associated Press

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — To a fascinated outside world, Huma Abedin was always the elegant woman standing at the back of the room, not speaking.

An ever-loyal aide to her boss of 25 years, Hillary Clinton, for whom she would "walk to the ends of the earth." (Spoiler alert: she still would.) And an ever-suffering wife to Anthony Weiner, who brought her endless public shame in cascades of scandal. (Spoiler alert: it was as bad as we thought.) Always there, and always silent.

Until now.

"I'm ready for this," she told The Associated Press in an interview last week, almost literally rolling up her sleeves in anticipation of the release of her new memoir, "Both/And: A Life in Many Worlds," out Tuesday. "I'm actually not nervous!" Abedin, 46, says she is finally telling her own story

after years of reading other versions, and it's a relief: "I'm feeling really good."

In a jam-packed volume of just under 500 pages, Abedin, born in Michigan to Muslim academics from India and Pakistan and raised largely in Saudi Arabia, dissects and illustrates three relationships that have framed her life.

First: her family, especially her adored late father, who died before she started college and whose advice on being true to herself, scrawled in a handwritten note, begins the book.

Second is Clinton, whom Abedin has served her entire professional life, through the first lady years to the Senate, from the State Department to that turbulent presidential campaign in 2016, and still today. And third, the section to which all readers will quickly turn: her husband. In the book, she does not hold back. Nor did she in the interview. "You know, he broke my

heart," she said. "He ripped it out and stomped on it, over and over again. And I lived in so much shame for so long, so confused, so alone, not really knowing the way out, just trying to do what was best for my child." The couple is not yet divorced, though lawyers are in the final stages, Abedin said — a full 10 years after Weiner's sexting scandal first upended her life. Abedin had married the New York congressman, a rising political star, a year earlier and was in the early, blissful stages of pregnancy when, she writes, her world came crashing down with an obscene photo that Weiner intended for a woman but mistakenly sent on his Twitter feed.

He resigned from Congress, but launched a mayoral bid two years later — a forgiving Abedin at his side — and seemed headed toward victory when the scandal surfaced anew, with more revelations of sexting under the can't-make-this-up moniker of "Carlos Danger."

And then scandal erupted a third time, when a lurid photo surfaced of Weiner lying next to the couple's son. Abedin announced a separation. But the couple continued to live in the same home, on different floors. Why, asked the tabloids, and others more politely, did she stay?

People will make their own judgments, she told the AP. "But when you're IN it, you're not thinking in terms

of the grand plan. You're just trying to get through the day." Weiner, she says, was a hands-on dad who did pickups and made playdates. And their son needed him. Of course, that same question — why did she stay? — was lobbed at Hillary Clinton during the impeachment scandal involving her husband and Monica Lewinsky. Abedin thinks the world missed the obvious explanation: "She did it because she believed it was the right thing to do for herself and her family — and for her country."

Throughout, Abedin's rock-solid allegiance to Hillary Clinton is paramount. "You've stumped me," she says when asked if the two ever had a real dispute.

Unless you include certain fashion choices. Like a puffy, unflattering black coat Clinton seemed to favor, and Abedin so disliked, she even tried to hide it from her. But Clinton fished it out and wore it to the inauguration of George W. Bush.

There are other humorous moments in the book — like the time the first lady overslept, and an over-eager Abedin, tasked with getting her started on her day, actually walked into the pitch-black presidential bedroom and shook her boss awake, startling the sleeping president as well.

There's also the time Abedin, amid a bad public moment with Weiner, was approached by a woman in

a store, pointing to a newspaper photo. She braced as always for a hateful remark, and was delighted to realize the woman simply thought she was Amal Clooney.

Abedin got so used to bracing for bad news, she initially thought of calling her book "Bracing." But nothing could have prepared her for the moment, late in the 2016 campaign, when FBI director James Comey (briefly) reopened the investigation into Clinton's emails found on Weiner's laptop through his sexting investigation.

"If she loses this election, it will be because of you and me," a livid Abedin told Weiner.

When Clinton did lose, it was "a great trauma that took me a very long time to process," she says now. "I did feel responsible." Finally, though, she came to believe the burden should rest on Comey. She says Clinton herself never blamed her.

The shame Abedin experienced through Weiner's behavior makes for the most honest, visceral writing in the book. She was subjected to a child services investigation. Social invitations were withdrawn. A neighbor complained when the couple used their building's swimming pool for their son's birthday. And yet in the book's acknowledgements, Abedin includes a thank-you. To Weiner. □

Arab world's legendary singer, Sabah Fakhri, dies at 88

By SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — One of the Arab world's most famous singers, Sabah Fakhri, who has entertained generations with traditional songs and preserved nearly extinct forms of Arabic music, has died, Syria's government said Tuesday. He was 88. It was not immediately clear what caused Fakhri's passing.

Born Sabah Abu Qaws in the Syrian city of Aleppo in 1933, Fakhri got his stage name as an adolescent

when he started performing. He soon rose to fame to become one of the Arab world's legendary tenors and one of its exceptionally charismatic entertainers. Fakhri was a world class Tarab singer, an Arabic form of music associated with emotional evocation that could last for hours.

Onstage, Fakhri would engage the audience and sway to the music almost in a trance, turning the lyrics of his songs, often in classical Arabic, into refrains they can easily sing back

with him. He once performed for 10 hours straight in 1968, at a concert in Caracas, Venezuela, without a single break, earning an entry in the Guinness World Records.

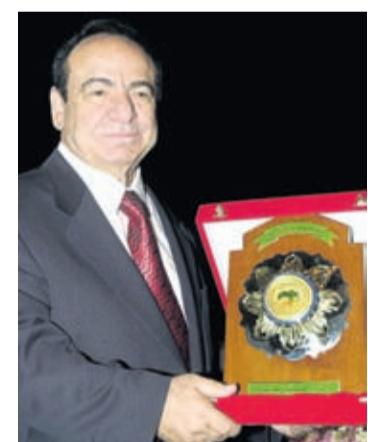
Throughout his career, Fakhri preserved and popularized traditional forms of Arab singing and music, including Quddud Halabiya, native to his hometown Aleppo.

Fakhri's voice was so powerful and distinct, he once told his interviewers that his family recognized it when

he was a baby.

"I started singing when I was born," he once told an interviewer for Egyptian TV CBC. A family member used to pinch him to hear him cry because "he liked the sound of my crying."

He memorized the Quran when young and began reciting in mosques — a common path for a number of musicians and singers in the Arab world. Because of his powerful voice, Fakhri briefly worked as a muezzin — the person who calls for prayers — at a mosque in



Associated Press

Aleppo.

"Quran is the great school for performance and good and clear pronunciation," he said in the interview, aired in 2014. □

Amid officiating changes, free throws down for some stars

By NOAH TRISTER

AP Sports Writer

After a loss at Washington last week, Atlanta Hawks star Trae Young calmly aired some of his frustrations with the way NBA games are being officiated amid a new crackdown on non-basketball moves used to draw contact.

The 6-foot-1, 164-pound Young, who made more free throws than anybody in the NBA last season, said he agreed with some of the changes, but he was clearly concerned some fouls are now being overlooked. A short while later, Kyle Kuzma of the Wizards weighed in on Twitter. "The new rules changes to the sport are the best thing the league has done in recent history," Kuzma tweeted. It's not unusual for the NBA to tweak the way rules are enforced, and it remains to be seen how officiating might evolve throughout the season. So far, some of the game's biggest offensive stars are indeed going to the free-throw line less often, and there's some con-



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cern that the changes may be allowing more physicality in general, beyond what was intended.

"If we're sacrificing freedom of movement, that's not, in my understanding, the intent of what we're trying to do," Utah Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "I'm cautiously optimistic that that'll balance itself out."

Snyder compared the current points of emphasis to a previous crackdown on flopping. The idea is to curtail certain tricks that seem to have no purpose other than drawing fouls.

"Some of the gamesman-

ship involved, whether it's kicking a leg into someone, stopping and going backwards and having someone run into you, grabbing someone's arm when you're not in a shooting motion," Snyder said.

Young said he agreed with targeting certain egregious examples, but he said he was frustrated with the way the game is now being called. Young averaged 8.7 free-throw attempts a game last season, and that number is down to 5.3 so far in 2021-22. It's a similar story for some other perimeter stars. Damian Lillard's aver-

age has dipped from 7.2 to 3.9, Bradley Beal's from 7.7 to 4.2 and Luka Doncic's from 7.1 to 4.7. Star big men may not be exempt: Joel Embiid averaged 10.7 free throws last season, and that's dropped to 8.8.

And then there's James Harden, who has turned drawing fouls into an art form in which the beauty is very much in the eye of the beholder. Harden dealt with injury problems last season, but in 2019-20, he averaged a whopping 11.8 free-throw attempts per game. That figure is down to 5.3 this season. Harden attempted 19 free throws in a win over Indiana on Friday night, but he has had four or fewer in every other game. "I think it's difficult for the players, for the referees and the coaches," said Steve Nash, Harden's coach with the Brooklyn Nets. "I think we're all just trying to get through this period where we become accustomed to where the line is." Beyond the impact on a few high-profile players, some league-wide stats

are also showing a decline. The NBA average so far this season is 19.9 free throws per game, per team. That's down from 21.8 in 2020-21. Additionally, the league is shooting 45% from the field so far and 34% from 3-point range, down from 47% and 37%. "I have noticed that you're allowed to be much more physical with the driver or finisher at the rim," Nash said. "How that will maintain itself throughout the year is yet to be seen."

Detroit Pistons coach Dwane Casey said the dip in 3-point shooting may be because of an increase in defensive switching.

"That's taking away some of the easy 3s," he said.

Casey said there's a competition committee meeting Tuesday where these issues can be discussed.

"We talk about this idea of cause and effect, the changing of the rules, and I think you've seen it in some of the shooting percentages and attempts and everything," Casey said. "It's an adjustment for everybody." □

World Series seeing its highest TV viewership since 2019

HOUSTON (AP) — The World Series has its highest broadcast viewership since 2019 — with 13.9 million tuned in during Sunday's Game 5 alone across Fox platforms.

Atlanta's 3-2 win over Houston on Saturday night received a 5.65 rating, 15 share and 10,511,000 viewers on Fox, the network said Tuesday.

That was up 12% over the roughly 9.38 million who watched Tampa Bay's 8-7 victory over

the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 4 of last year's neutral-site World Series in Arlington, Texas. It's also 2% more than the approximate 10.28 million viewers for the Astros' 8-1 rout of Washington in Game 4 of 2019.

When taking into account Fox Deportes and people who streamed the games, Fox said there were 10,771,000 viewers for Game 4 and 13,933,000 for Game 5.

Houston's come-from-behind 9-5 win in Game

5 on Sunday drew a 7.38 rating, 18 share and 13,644,000 viewers.

That marked a 35% increase over the 10.1 million for the Dodgers' 4-2 win in Game 5 last year and a 19% rise over the 11.45 million viewers for the Astros' 7-1 win in Game 5 of 2019. The rating is the percentage of television households tuned in to a broadcast. The share is the percentage viewing a telecast among those households with TVs on at the time. □

Packers release linebacker Jaylon Smith

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Green Bay Packers have released Jaylon Smith less than a month after signing the former Dallas Cowboys linebacker.

Smith's agent, Doug Hendrickson, confirmed Tuesday that the 26-year-old Smith has been released. ESPN first reported the move.

Smith joined the Packers on Oct. 7, one day after the Cowboys released him. Smith had led the Cowboys

in tackles in 2019 and 2020, but he never came close to making that kind of impact with Green Bay.

He played a total of 27 defensive snaps in two games with the Packers. Smith was on the field for 27.9% of their defensive snaps at Chicago on Oct. 17 and in 13.9% of their defensive snaps against Washington a week later.

The Packers left Smith inactive for their 24-21 victory over the Arizona Cardinals

on Thursday even though he hadn't appeared on the injury report all week.

Smith, a 2016 second-round pick, had been productive with the Cowboys earlier in his career and was a Pro Bowl injury replacement in 2019. But his performance had dipped since the start of the 2020 season.

The former Notre Dame star won the 2015 Butkus Award as college football's top linebacker. He was considered a probable first-round



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pick before a severe knee injury in the Fiesta Bowl caused his draft stock to dip and forced him to miss

the entire 2016 season. Green Bay (7-1) visits the Kansas City Chiefs (4-4) on Sunday. □

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Sepp Blatter, Platini indicted for fraud in Switzerland

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) — Former FIFA officials Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini were charged with fraud and other offenses by Swiss prosecutors on Tuesday after a six-year investigation into a controversial \$2 million payment.

The 85-year-old Blatter and 66-year-old Platini now face a trial at federal criminal court in Bellinzona. They could be jailed for several years if found guilty, though Swiss cases often take years to reach a conclusion.

"This payment damaged FIFA's assets and unlawfully enriched Platini," Swiss federal prosecutors said in a statement.

The case was opened in September 2015 and ousted Blatter ahead of schedule as FIFA president. It also



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ended Platini's campaign to succeed his former mentor.

It centers on Platini's written request to FIFA in January 2011 to be paid back-dated additional salary for working as a presidential adviser in Blatter's first term, from 1998-2002.

Blatter told FIFA to make the payment within weeks. He was preparing to campaign for re-election in a contest against Mohamed bin Hammam of Qatar, where Platini's influence with European voters was seen as a key factor.

"The evidence gathered by

the (attorney general's office) has corroborated that this payment to Platini was made without a legal basis," prosecutors said.

Both Blatter and Platini have long denied wrongdoing and cited a verbal agreement they had made, now more than 20 years ago, for the money to be paid.

Blatter has been charged with fraud, mismanagement, misappropriation of FIFA funds and forgery of a document. Platini has been charged with fraud, misappropriation, forgery and as an accomplice to Blatter's alleged mismanagement. Fraud and forgery charges can be punished with jail sentences of up to five years.

"I view the proceedings at the federal criminal court with optimism — and hope

that, with this, this story will come to an end and all the facts will be worked through cleanly," Blatter said in a statement.

Platini, was not placed under formal investigation until last year, and months later the more serious allegation of fraud was included against both men.

The three-time Ballon d'Or winner, who was captain of his national team when France won the European Championship in 1984, said Tuesday he was "perfectly confident and calm" about the outcome.

"I fully contest these unfounded and unfair accusations," Platini said in a statement.

Platini has long said, and Blatter repeated Tuesday, that he declared the payment and paid taxes on it in Switzerland. □

Messi to miss PSG's match at Leipzig in Champions League



Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Lionel Messi will miss Paris Saint-Germain's match at Leipzig in the Champions League because of hamstring and knee pain, the club said Tuesday.

Messi was replaced at halftime of PSG's 2-1 victory over Lille in the French league on Friday with coach Mauricio Pochettino describing the substitution as a "precaution." PSG leads its Champions League group and plays last-place Leipzig on Wednesday.

"Leo Messi has discomfort in his left hamstring and pain in his knee following a contusion," the club said.

Kylian Mbappe missed Friday's game with an infection but was included in the squad for the match against Leipzig. Two weeks ago, Messi scored twice as PSG rallied to beat Leipzig 3-2 in Paris. □

Indians begin removing scripted name from stadium scoreboard

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Indians began removing the team's scripted logo atop the giant scoreboard at Progressive Field on Tuesday as they transition their name to the Guardians. Crews started dismantling the letters, beginning with the "I" on the 80-foot-long sign. It's another step in the offseason change for the Major League Baseball team, which has been called the Indians since 1915.

The removal of the letters is expected to take several days. The sign will be placed in storage while the club evaluates options for a permanent spot for it.

A new "Guardians" sign



Associated Press

will replace the old one and be erected before opening day 2022.

The team already has removed other signage inside and outside the downtown ballpark. The team's official name switch is expected to take place in a few weeks,

when Guardians merchandise will go on sale.

The changeover hit a snag last week when a roller derby team known since 2013 as the Cleveland Guardians sued the baseball team in federal court, alleging the switch infringes on its trademark. □